

Amendments to the claims:

1. (Original) An oral device removable insertable in the mouth of a user for facilitating breathing while sleeping comprising:

an upper member, the upper member having upper and lower depressions and right and left sides corresponding to the location of at least back molars and second bicuspid configured to fit a mouth of a user, said upper and lower depressions forming right and left biting surfaces wherein said biting surfaces are spaced at a height to force the mouth open the upper member further having a plate-like bridge conforming to the back of the maxillary anterior and the upper palate of the mouth, said bridge joining the biting surfaces;

a lower member positioned in underlying spaced relationship relative to the plate-like bridge of the upper member, the lower member having a lateral member, the lateral member having an upper surface oriented toward the plate-like bridge, a lower surface opposed to the upper surface, and at least one curvilinear side surface extending from a frontal location to a terminal location proximate to the maxillary anterior of the user's mouth, the at least one side edge adapted to engage associated interiorly oriented regions of the upper member, the lower member positioned relative to the upper member so as to form an air passage for conveying introduced auxiliary pressured air from the mouth opening to the anterior of the mouth of the user.

2. (Original) The oral device of claim 1 wherein the lower member is in permanent contact with the upper member.

3. (Original) The oral device of claim 1 wherein the upper member has retentive portions extending over the super bulge of each of the back molars and second bicuspid.

4. (Original) The oral device of claim 1 wherein the flexible shell extends over the gum line of a user having an edentulous mouth.

5. (Original) The oral device of claim 2 wherein the plate-like bridge conforms to the back of the maxillary anteriors and the upper palate of the mouth, said bridge joining the biting surfaces.

6. (Original) The oral device of claim 1 further comprising:
means for releasably connecting the airway defined between the upper and lower members to a source of pressurized air, said connection means protruding from the device to a location external to the mouth of the user; and
at least one air direction member, the air direction member integrally formed in at least one of the upper or lower members and extending essentially perpendicular to the air channel defined by the upper and lower members.
7. (Original) The oral device of claim 6 wherein the at least one air direction foil is integrally connected to and protrudes from the upper surface of the lower member to a location proximate to the lower face of the upper member.
8. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the upper member comprises a plurality of tooth engaging regions, the tooth engaging regions including retentive portions extending over the super bulge of each of associated back molars and second bicuspid of the user and tooth-contacting regions positioned proximate to frontal regions of the device, the frontal tooth-contacting regions adapted to releasably contact at least a portion of inner surfaces of upper front teeth of the user.
9. (Original) The device of claim 8 wherein the lower member comprises a frontal shield extending angular to the lateral member to terminal positions above and below the lower member, the frontal shield having an interiorly oriented face adapted to releasably contact outer surfaces of associated front teeth, the frontal shield further having an opposed outwardly oriented surface, the opposed outwardly oriented surface having an upper region adapted to contact tissue associated with at least a portion of inner upper lip region of the user and a lower region, the lower region having a surface adapted to contact at least a portion of lower lip region of the user.
10. (Original) The device of claim 9 wherein the lower member further comprises a tooth engaging region integrally connected to the lower region of the frontal shield, the tooth engaging region releasably contacting at least one incisor located in the mandible of the user.

11. (Original) The device of claim 9 further comprising means for connecting the lower member to a source of pressurized air, the connecting means extending outward from the frontal shield member to a location external to the mouth of the user.

12. (Original) The device of claim 9 wherein the frontal shield further comprises a lateral protrusion adapted to releasably contact with a source of pressurized air and at least one orifice communicating with protrusion to a location in communication with the air channel formed by the upper and lower members.

13. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising means for connecting the upper member and the lower member in a releasably, essentially airtight manner.

14. (Original) The device of claim 13 wherein the releasable connecting means comprises at least one part of clip members extending outward from the anterior end of the lower member, the clip members deformably received in clip engaging channels defined in the anterior of the upper member.

15. (Original) An oral device removably insertable in the mouth of a user for facilitating breathing while sleeping. The device comprising:

an upper member, the upper member having upper and lower depressions and right and left sides corresponding to the location of at least back molars and second bicuspid, the upper member configured to fit a mouth of a user, the upper and lower depressions forming right and left biting surfaces wherein said biting surfaces are spaced at a height to force the mouth open to a position that protrudes the jaw, the upper member further having a plate-like bridge conforming to the back of the maxillary anterior and the upper palate of the mouth, the plate-like bridge contiguous connected between the biting surfaces;

a lower member positioned in underlying spaced relationship relative to the plate-like bridge of the upper member, the lower member having an upper surface oriented toward the plate-like bridge and a lower surface opposed to the upper surface, the lower member further having at least one curvilinear side surface extending between the upper and lower surfaces from a frontal location proximate the upper incisors to a terminal location proximate to the maxillary anterior of the user's mouth,

the at least one side edge releasably connected to associated interiorly oriented regions of the upper member, the lower member positioned relative to the upper member so as to define an air passage for conveying pressurized air from the mouth opening to the anterior of the mouth of the user;

means for releasably connecting the airway defined between the upper and lower members to a source of pressurized air external to the oral device, the connection means extending from the device to a location external to the mouth where the device is in position.

16. (Original) The device of claim 15 wherein the air connection means is formed integral with the lower member and wherein the lower member further comprises a frontal shield extending angularly outward from the lateral member to terminal positions above and below the lower member, the frontal shield having an interiorly oriented face adapted to releasably contact outer surfaces of associated front teeth, the frontal shield further having an opposed outwardly oriented surface;

the opposed outwardly oriented surface having an upper region and a lower region;

the upper region adapted to contact tissue associated with at least a portion of inner upper lip region of the user;

the lower region having a surface adapted to contact at least a portion of associated lower incisors and an opposed surface adapted to contact at least a portion of lower lip region.

17. (Original) The device of claim 16 wherein the airway connection means comprises a channel member having an airway passage defined therein, the channel member communicating with the airway defined in the device at a location proximate to the frontal shield and releasably contacting with the source of pressurized air at a location distal to the frontal shield.

18. (Original) The device of claim 17 wherein the upper member further comprises an annular groove positioned in the interior face of the upper member at a

location between the right and left sides and the plate-like bridge, the annular groove extending from the anterior surface of the upper member.

19. (Original) The device of claim 18 wherein the lower member comprises at least two clips extending from the anterior of the lower member and configured to be releasably contained in the annular groove defined in the upper member.

Claims 20-23 are withdrawn.